

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP, SP
SUBJECT: CODEL BYRD

1. THE FOLLOWING STORY APPEARED JUNE 26 IN "DIARIO 16"
UNDER THE HEADLINE "CARTER WILL ADVISE SPAIN TO ENTER
NATO".

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY
IN THE AMERICAN SENATE, ROBERT BYRD, WHOSE NEGOTIATING
SKILL RESOLVED FOR PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER THE PROBLEM
OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES, WILL
TRAVEL TO SPAIN NEXT WEEKEND TO DEMONSTRATE THE SUPPORT
WHICH THE UNITED STATES GIVES TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS
OF THE MONARCHY. BUT BYRD'S TRIP WILL NOT ONLY BE A
GESTURE OF CARTER'S GOOD WILL TOWARDS SPAIN, BUT IS
ALSO WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PRESSURES WHICH THE
AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION HAS UNDERTAKEN TO WIN THE ENTRY
OF OUR COUNTRY INTO NATO. ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES
MAINTAINS A POSTURE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE DECISION
OF SPAIN TO ENTER THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, ITS INTEREST
THAT THIS SHOULD HAPPEN IS EVIDENT. UP TO NOW, THE
UNITED STATES HAS TREATED TACTFULLY THE TOPIC OF THE
FUTURE ENTRY OF SPAIN INTO NATO AND HAS UNDERLINED THAT
IT IS A DECISION FOR THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE.
HOWEVER, BYRD'S TRIP AND ITS CHARACTERISTICS MAKE ONE
THINK THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES
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JUDGED, SEEMS DETERMINED TO WORK FOR SPAIN TO ACCELERATE
ITS DECISION OF "YES" TO NATO. DURING HIS VISIT
JUNE 30-JULY 1 (SIC) BYRD WILL MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER
ADOLFO SUAREZ AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEFENSE LT. GEN.
MANUEL GUTIERREZ MELLADO. THE LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATIC
MAJORITY IN THE SENATE IS CARRYING CARTER'S REQUEST TO
EXPRESS TO THE GOVERNMENT THE UNITED STATES' SUPPORT FOR

SPAIN AND "FOR THE ADMIRABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS". BUT BYRD WILL ALSO REITERATE
TO THE SUAREZ GOVERNMENT AND TO HIGH SPANISH MILITARY
COMMANDS THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES
TO THE DEFENSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
IN A MESSAGE WHICH CARTER SENT TO BYRD, DATED THE 20TH
OF THIS MONTH, THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT SAYS THAT "SPANISH
WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS FOR UNITED
STATES TROOPS CONTRIBUTES GREATLY TO THE SECURITY OF
SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES, AS WELL AS OF THE WHOLE
WEST." END TEXT. EATON

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